(c) Details of utilization of funds in respect of Institutions under Ministry of Science and Technology and in the State of Maharashtra are given below:-

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
All India including Maharashtra	1802.3761	Rs.2100.6736	2808.965
Institutes in Maharashtra	155.3468	164.2658	213.936

(d) At present, there is no proposal for setting up of any new Institution in Maharashtra.

Funds for State Councils of S & T

2399. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh under Assistance for Development of State Councils of S & T for projects, etc., has come down from 2006-07 onwards;

(b) if so, the reasons for reduction in providing assistance to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any surveys in the State of Andhra Pradesh have been undertaken to identify State-specific problems in the last five years;

(d) if so, the outcome of such surveys; and

(e) the action that has been contemplated or proposed to contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology under State Science and Technology Programme (formerly Assistance for Development of State Councils of Science and Technology) has increased from Rs.27 lakhs during 2006-07 to Rs.32 lakhs during 2008-09. However, for the 2009-10, Andhra Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology has not yet submitted the proposal seeking the financial assistance. They have been requested to submit the proposal at the earliest.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. During the last five years, the Department had supported a project to Andhra Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology to undertake a survey/study to identify State-specific problems requiring State and Technology intervention for the purpose of facilitating the Council in planning and prioritizing Science and Technology activities at State level. The project has been completed and report submitted by them. The Council has been advised to formulate projects in the areas identified in the report.

Safety aspects of GM Crops

2400. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research studies funded by Department of Bio-Technology is in progress to assess the toxicity and consumer safety aspects of Genetically Modified Crops;

(b) if so, the details of research centres and name of investigators where the studies are in progress; and

(c) if not, the reasons why initiative is not taken for conducting studies in such an important aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) There is no ongoing research project funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) specifically to assess the toxicity and consumer safety aspects of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops. However, the Department has supported research projects for developing GM Crops for resistance/tolerance to pests, diseases and abiotic stresses. Such projects are pursued as per the Bio-safety Guidelines issued from time to time from the Government under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Rules, 1989, and the toxicity and human safety considerations are integral part of these guidelines. In order to facilitate various regulatory tests including food and environmental safety for GM crops, the Department has established a platform for translational research on transgenic crops at the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh. The DBT has also supported a 'GM toxicity and allergenicity testing unit' at Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Laying of Rangnath Mishra Commission Report to House

2401. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any report submitted by a commission constituted by Government is mandatory to lay on the floor of the House within six months;

(b) if so, why the report of Rangnath Mishra Commission has not been laid on the floor of the House; and

(c) by when Government is planning to lay the Rangnath Mishra Commission Report on the floor of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) Only in case of Commissions constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(b) The Rangnath Mishra Commission was not constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(c) The matter is under consideration.